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Webster Davis on Toast.

AN OPEN LETTER.

MR. WEBSTER DAVIS:

Sir:—Thursday, the 5th of July, 1900, in the Democratic Convention in Kansas City, U. S. A., you spoke as follows: "I have been honored highly by another party than this in the past. I have served that party well and have rendered services good as the honors I received and the account is balanced now. . . . I love liberty, I love equality of rights, and I love justice, and when the party that I belong to has become too cowardly to take a stand for liberty, to represent this Government against British aristocracy and monarchy, I leave it and leave it for good. . . . Liberty! We all love that splendid word, the sweetest word that ever blossomed on the tongues of men. . . . I sympathize with people struggling for liberty everywhere. . . . We do love liberty. The masses of the American people stand for the blessed idea of liberty, justice and equality of rights, and I dare say to-day, if it were possible to get the news over the British cable to the Boer farmers in the two South African Republics, that the representatives of the six or seven million American voters send a word of sympathy to them, many a Boer would shout for joy in the hills of the Transvaal.

"Grander struggle for liberty was never made in all the world's history than the struggle being made by the Republicans and Democrats in South Africa. Let us sympathize with them, and I am glad that you have taken this action to-day, and at the polls in November, follow it up. Let American principles ever live! Let them go on down for years to come as an inheritance to generations yet unborn! Liberty, love of country, one flag, one country, one splendid destiny alone! I stand upon this platform and support William J. Brennings."

One reason for giving your allegiance to the Democratic party and its nominee arises doubtless from the following

part of their platform: "Believing in the principles of self-government, and rejecting as did our forefathers the claims of monarchy, we view with indignation the purpose of England to overwhelm with force the South African Republics. Speaking, as we believe, for the entire American nation, except its Republican office-holders, and for all free men everywhere, we extend our sympathies to the heroic burghers in their unequal struggle to maintain their liberty and independence."

ATWOOD'S WONDERFUL WISDOM.

Or possibly you were impelled to "take the plunge" by the following very wise words of a "man from Kansas," who shows so much knowledge of and regard for international law and the duties, privileges and limitations of the Chief Executive of this Republic and of the American Congress, the Hon. John H. Atwood, as exhibited in his speech made in seconding the nomination of Bryan, to-wit: "Ah, my friends, the gods never saw, in all the times that have passed, a crime so black and so bloody as is being wrought out to-day on the veldts and plains of South Africa. Great words have come thundering to us down the colonades of time. The old guard of Napoleon said, when asked to surrender, 'The old guard dies, but it never surrenders.' Lawrence, on his sinking ship and in his dying hour, said, 'Don't give up the ship!' There is now, my friends, another legend and another saying. They are the words of dignity and of strength, which were uttered by that rugged old burgher, Oom Paul, when he said 'The Transvaal shall be a Republic or it shall be a grave.'

"And when our leader is clothed with the power of eighty millions of people, when he grasps the scepter of power and reigns as the people's Tribune at Washington, another legend will be added to the heroic words of history, and these words shall be, 'Tyrants, stop! British Empire, stay your hand! America will not sit quietly by and see the death of the only Republics that are like our own.' And that will be all that will be required. The ipse dixit, the word of America, will be enough. And not only will the victory of Democracy next fall mean the rehabilitation of all the principles that we love; it will mean the salvation of the cause of liberty throughout the world! Is it any wonder that we ask you to do what you are going to do, vote for Bryan?"

Doubtless Bryan will say those words "when he grasps the the scepter of power and reigns."

Oh Imperialism! Thy other and true name is "Brennings." And Atwood is thy court fool!

Mayhap your tragic "flop" was the result of the words of Mr. Bryan, spoken when one of the Boer Commissioners was at Omaha, when he said, "We should keep inspired by that love of liberty till every American citizen goes down on his knees and asks the god of battles to bring victory to the Boers."

VAIN VAPORINGS.

These vaporings of yourself, of Atwood and of Bryan, disclose an absolute disregard of law, of fact and of good sense, and only show the people of the country that you are all playing to the grand stand.

Had McKinley, in diplomatic language and phrases said, "Tyrants stop!" etc., he would have gone outside of his official authority and legal prerogative, and would have involved himself and the nation in extreme humiliation or war. He would have incurred the censure of all sensible Americans as well as the assaults of Democracy. Orators and editors of that party are already crying "Imperialism," though the President is but patriotically trying to save the lives of the American legation and citizens in Pekin, with neither expressed nor implied regard for the political results.

IMPEDIMENT IN YOUR MODESTY.

Mr. Davis, all those expressions as to love of liberty, justice and equality of rights made by yourself are, in the abstract, shared by every other American citizen. You have no monopoly of those noble emotions, and though you oft repeat them with emphasis and exhort others to a personal action, seeming to feel as if the ideas were orginal with you, be assured that you do not impress the people with awe on account of your excessive patriotism. They only think that you have an impediment in your modesty and in view of your recent action, that you are on sale, again.

THE ISSUE.

But for the chief purpose of this discussion I will say that when you and Mr. Atwood and Mr. Bryan assert that the Boers

of South Africa are proper subjects of sympathy because they are inspired by love of liberty, justice and equal rights, and that they are being overrun and crushed because they are Republics, I join issue with you and deny that such are the facts. And I affirm and will maintain the assertion that in no modern government, claiming anything like civilization as a basis, is the contrary more absolutely the fact.

TRUTH A WINNER.

The American people not only love the triune principles of liberty, justice and equality, but they also love the truth. They are profound haters of those who would control their emotions and actions by falsehood.

You are an alleged lawyer and should have brought into the court of public opinion, where you so eloquently argue for a verdict, a copy of the Boers' Constitution, and their statutes by which your allegations that the South African governments are republican in form and fact could be proved. But fearing to show them or indifferent as to their value, and depending upon your assertions and your wonderful eloquence, you have them not. Such being the case you can find your neglect supplied when the time for trial and testimony shall come, and I hereby challenge you, to the forum, for discussion.

If any respectable number of Americans are so much in sympathy with the Boers as to be willing to aid them by hostile actions, I am persuaded it exists because of lack of information as to the facts. This effort is humbly tendered the public to supply that lack.

SOME OF THE FACTS.

History, at the command of all, shows that South Africa came into the possession of Great Britain in 1806, that the territory so acquired extended so far north as to take in the entire land now the scene of the scourge of war, that in 1833 slavery was abolished in South Africa, that on the culmination of that event some 30,000 Boers accepted the decree, but that from 6,000 to 8,000 Boers who loved slavery as a right, and disowned liberty as a rule of business and social life "trecked."

Those Boers eventually located on the land now the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. In 1852 England gave the

Transvaal autonomy and independence and two years later gave the same to the Orange Free State. That independence was granted with the stipulations that trade and traders were to be free. That Uitlanders, or citizens of other countries, were to have the right to make residence and to hold property in the Boer States. There was to be freedom to missionaries of all classes to work among the natives, and there was to be no slavery.

HO, YE COLORED MEN.

But with autonomy and independence the Boer eventually disregarded his obligations in spirit and in fact. Thousands of natives, with whom the Boers were often at war, were captured and taken into slavery in the two States. In formulating their Constitutions equality in church and state was forbidden among colored and white people. No black man could own land. He cannot be an independent trader. He cannot have the liberty to walk upon the sidewalk in the cities—if he does he is flogged. He has no standing in court. He cannot have action at law. In the Transvaal there is no education for the black man. Up to 1897 there could be no legal marriages among black people, and now the legal fee for the ceremony is fifteen dollars, which, together with other restrictions, makes the law a nullity. Every native must have an identity and a written pass on penalty of the lash.

The Transvaal Dutch churches, with fifty years of opportunity, have done no church work among the natives. What work in the educational and evangelistic field exists there is the act of churches from the people of Natal, Cape Colony and elsewhere.

DIFFERENTIATIONS IN REPUBLICS.

Mr. Davis, while I write, music in the street attracts my attention. I look out and see a band composed of colored musicians. Negroes in regalia as members of a secret and social order, in column, are on parade. At their own sweet will they fill the streets, while colored men and women keeping step are walking on the sidewalk. They are enjoying liberty, sweet liberty, and have equal rights under the laws of this Republic.

This they could not do in the Transvaal where you find the model republics, the republic of that "rugged old burgher, Oom Paul." If they attempted to do so they would all be

soundly flogged and at the end of the punishment receive another lash, if they did not say "thank you."

Had you taken colored men, some of your old partisans, with you from Kansas City to the Transvaal, either to act as boot-blacks or body-guard, as miners or ministers of the gospel, as teamsters or teachers, they would have been subject to the law and its penalties.

WHO VOTES IN AMERICA?

You exhort Democrats to continue their zeal until the election in November. Who will then vote? Do color lines exist? No. Does any voter experience hindrance on account of his religion? No. Is the franchise restricted to those who are the blood lineage of the colonists? No. In our land of republicanism the Protestant—of all sects—the Catholics, the Mormon, the Jew, the Agnostic, the easily naturalized foreigner and the African in blood are equal before the law in all things, including the right to vote and as to elligibility to office.

In Kruger's republic all is different and no man can vote except Protestant Boers. It certainly was a strange zeal which prompted Irish Catholics to do battle for such an old A. P. A. as Oom Paul Kruger. To yourself, who so eloquently and unqualifiedly approved the A. P. A. principles in Kansas City—some moons ago—it should be a very congenial work to uphold those same principles in the Transvaal matter.

TRANSVAAL FRANCHISE.

By the Transvaal Constitution the elective franchise is restricted to Boers alone, and at the age of sixteen—fatal numerals to Bryan—the Boer lad casts the ballot.

An Uitlander must be 40 years old, he must own property, he must renounce his native country and for fifteen years be a man without a country, he must have the written consent of a majority of the burghers of his district or ward. Then the council of state must approve, and finally, if Kruger assents, he becomes a naturalized Boer.

The child of the Uitlander born in the Transvaal takes the status of his father. These laws practically disfranchise for all time, everybody in the Transvaal but the 23,000 voters now there and their descendants.

Special prohibition of the franchise is made to any one connected with the London Missionary Society. This is in a sense to recoup upon such people for their successful advocacy of the abolition of slavery in South Africa.

POPULATION AND LOCATION OF TROOPS.

In 1894 the population of South Africa, that is Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State and the Transvaal, was 3,351,376, of which about 3,000,000 were natives. This preponderance of natives had existed from the first occupation of the country and made a military force a necessity, and as a matter of duty England had to furnish the troops. They were stationed according to the exigencies, and as the Basutos and Zulus had location in the north part of Natal just south of the Orange Free States, and were a war-like people, garrisons were so placed as to protect white people, trade, commerce and railroads. Therefore Laing's Nek, Newcastle, Glencoe, Dundee and Ladysmith became military stations. Troops were also located at Kimberly and Mafeking on the west of Orange Free State and the Transvaal. All these places were in British territory.

DIAMONDS, GOLD, PEOPLE.

The development of the diamond fields at Kimberly and the discovery of gold in the Rand had called people from all parts of the world, and the protection of person and property guaranteed by treaty and stipulations gave them assurance of safety and well-being. Uitlanders to the number of 210,000 were thus domiciled and engaged in business, and by 1897-8 there were 80,000 men of suitable age and permanent residence to entitle them to the franchise in any republic, and they would have had that right in the United States. The Boer population in the Transvaal was less than 100,000, all told, but to that blood exclusively, pertained the franchise and the government, national and municipal.

Suppose the United States had adopted and maintained the Boer policy, and now to our 80,000,000 with whom rested the franchise and the government there were 210,000,000 white foreigners with their disqualifications, would that kind of conditions be properly called a model republic? Could a govern-

ment be maintained thereunder? Would not revolution to secure reforms have long since ensued and been justified?

BOER OUTRAGES.

Those Uitlanders, though not voters, were business men, mining, manufacturing, trading, laboring, building railroads, cities, and modern conveniences and had hundreds of millions invested. They were rich prey for Boer taxation and extortion. They paid more than seventy-five per cent. of the exorbitant taxes. They had no voice in public affairs, they were subject to personal indignities with no redress. The official language was Dutch, which they did not speak nor understand. They had no school facilities, they could not bear fire arms, they could not hold public meetings. There was a rigid censorship of the press. President Kruger could expel anyone at his will. He exercised that tyrannical power and that too, upon American citizens.

Oh, yes, Mr. Davis, your clients are lovers of liberty, justice and equality of rights.

OH, FOR RELIEF.

With this predominant population of actual and permanent residents; with the vast business interests which they represented; with the exorbitant taxation to which they were subjected; with their utter lack of representation or influence in the government; with the insolence and tyranny to which they were subjected, there was an abiding and increasing wish for reforms and the possession of a fair bill of rights.

To whom should they look, to whom appeal for aid, from what direction expect relief?

Jameson's raid, though justified by conditions of oppression and endurance of wrongs, had not met their views as a plan of action. They wanted reform, not revolution. Kruger, the autocratic controller of Boer Republics, gave no assurance of reform or relief.

So they naturally appealed to Great Britain, from which many of them came, of which many were subjects, and to which the Boers had given assurances that their class and kind should have rights and fair treatment.

COUNCIL OF BOER AND BRITON.

Their appeals brought about the conference at Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, where Sir Alfred Milner, on behalf of the British government and the petitioners, asked that for five years the Uitlanders should be allowed ten members of the "First Raad," which is the law-making power of the Transvaal government, thus increasing that body from twenty-four to thirty-four members, that is, he asked that two-thirds of the population should be allowed a representation of ten, while the other third should have twenty-four.

To this Kruger said "no." He then made counter propositions which were accompanied by conditions and terms which, while decreasing England's power in South Africa, failed to furnish the demanded reforms. Milner then asked the appointment of a commission to study the practical results of the various propositions; but while these negotiations were going on and before diplomacy had been exhausted, Kruger, on the 10th day of October, sent in his ultimatum. It had been ready for a long time but his military preparations were incomplete.

ARMS AND SOLDIERS, BUT NO ENEMY.

The Boers, principally of the Transvaal, had been preparing for war four or five years. They had secured modern arms and munitions in great quantities, all of the best and most effective kind and purchased, regardless of cost. Arsenals and machinery for making munitions of war were erected and provided. They also had been securing engineers and expert and skilful soldiers of fortune for years, the largs sums coming into their treasury from excessive taxation of Uitlanders furnishing ample means.

Thus prepared for and committed to war Kruger immediately sought his enemy; but none were to be found in all the Transvaal nor in the Orange Free State. There was neither British garrison nor British soldier on military duty in all their territory and no British recruits or reinforcements were enroute to South Africa with hostile intent toward the Boers.

BRING ON YOUR TESTIMONY.

And I challenge record testimony to the contrary, Mr. Davis, when I say that in the conferences with Milner there had been no threat on his part to appeal to arms to secure the demanded reforms.

The war was the unjustified and very unwise act of Kruger. Had he, in full panoply of war—sustained as he would have been by the rights which pertain to a national organization—stood on the defensive, even on the very line of his own territory, and England had made the attack, he would, in addition to the universal sympathy of the world, doubtless have secured some kind of interposition. Or, even if defeated in any contest of arms which might have ensued, he would have saved territorial integrity, though compelled to grant the reforms, which, by every consideration of civilization, justice and equal rights, should have been tendered years before.

BOERS TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.

The ultimatum having been sent on the 10th of October and no British troops or garrisons being on Boer territory, Kruger's army made invasion of Natal and on the 14th occupied Newcastle. On the 15th the wires were cut and railroads interrupted at Kimberly, more than three hundred miles to the west; October 20th occurred the battle of Glencoe; on the 21st at Elandslaagte, and on the 24th at Reitfontein, battles took place. Meantime Dundee was the scene of combat. On the 30th Ladysmith was the place of concentration of English troops and a battle with the Boers. The same day Colesberg, in Natal, was occupied by Kruger's troops. November 2nd Ladysmith was surrounded and besieged, which condition of isolation and siege continued till March 1st, 1900. Kimberly and Mafeking were also isolated and besieged soon after the commencement of hostilities.

TROPHIES GALORE.

The press informs the people that you made personal visits to some of the fields and that you have souvenirs and trophies. From Spion Kop you brought shells, bayonets and shrapnel. At Dundee you got a saddle taken from a British huzzar captain, "but immensely more valuable is a black leather saddle

cut away at Colenso; of the plucky battle of Elandslaagte, where the British made their first stirring charge, Mr. Davis has a huzzar officer's sword, blood stained half way up the blade. Then, too, he has collar ornaments and regimental distinguishing marks, almost all of them being taken for him from poor fellows who lay at his feet and had no use for earthly things." A lion's skin 126 inches from nose to tail tip you bring as a trophy.

I am unkind enough to say that if there were any specimens of perforated head-gear on any of those fields you did well to neglect to bring them, as the home supply is sufficient for exhibition purposes; and still more unkind is the impulse which prompts me to insert the following: "Editor Kansas City, Journal: In to-day's issue you quote from the Nashville Banner: 'Webster Davis brought a very fine lion's skin back from South Africa. It would be eminently proper for him to put it on.' I wish to add:

Does't thou now fall over to my foes?
Thou wear a lion's hide! Doff it for shame,
And hang a calf skin on those recreant limbs.

King John, Act 3. Scene 1.

Resp., I. E. Wirick,
Yates Center, Kan., July 13, 1900.

KRUGER PLAYED A LONE HAND.

It will be noticed, Mr. Davis, that Kruger in his self-sufficiency, never called for sympathy, co-operation nor counsel from the United States or any other nation; did not send commissioners to present his cause; did not even hire any peripatetic spellbinder to go to his countrymen and exhaust himself and his vocabulary in expressing contempt for England and in calling for sympathy, and for "a hundred thousand Americans, with a proper fleet, to arm themselves and go to aid the Boers." So easy to raise an army and equip a navy. See?

No like the Dictator of the platforms and policies of your new party—"Brennings," I think you called him—who gave his ultimatum of 16 to 1, "without waiting for the consent of any other nation," Dictator Kruger cast the die and engaged in an offensive war without consulting or informing any other nation.

Without exposing himself on the firing line he sent his burghers to the hazard of battle. Still they seem to have been inspired by his caution, for though they outnumbered the beleagured garrisons, they contented themselves by firing at long range on women and children—not having the nerve to fight like men, and soldiers—and make assault.

SUFFERINGS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Citizens and soldiers subsisted on repulsive fare. In Ladysmith 2,000 horses were slaughtered for food, ears of corn sold for seventy-five cents each, tins, or cans, of milk cost $2.50; starch with blueing in it, originally intended for the laundry, and bran were mixed and made into bread, canary seed was beaten up into meal, and violet powder, prepared for the toilet, was made into rice cakes. The shells from the cannon fired from the safe distance of three or four miles were not half so destructive of life as famine, starvation, bad water and the consequent pestilence. Its victims outnumbered those of the fire-arms ten to one. The other besieged cities suffered likewise. And all this suffering of women, children, inoffensive non-combatants and troops, Mr. Davis, because your patron and paymaster, Kruger, invaded English territory.

KRUGER'S POLICIES AND SUCCESS.

When hostilities were commenced great efforts were made to secure military co-operation from Boer cities in South Africa. Some success resulted in Natal—and Cape Colony Boers, at times, seemed to be ready to join the hostiles. The Zulus and Basutos, whose tribal homes were in Natal, were visited by Boer emissaries who urged them to make common cause against the English. Natal was declared to be no longer under British control, but to be annexed to the Orange Free State, and President Steyn issued official proclamations, orders of jurisdiction and severance of that Colony from English rule.

Thus everything went gloriously for the Boers. Many people thought that Kruger was one of the world's great statesmen, that the Boers were invincible soldiers and their generals great strategists.

Some people believed that, by reason of their losses, English generals and soldiers would be discarded among fighting

men and that England would be relegated to class as a second-rate power among nations.

SHOULD ENGLAND SURRENDER?

Now, Mr. Davis, under these well-known and undisputed facts, what was the duty of England? Should she surrender to the Boers; supplicate for the withdrawal of her troops and munitions; leave her thousands of citizens with their vast business interests to the malicious disposition of ignorant and persecuting Boers; abandon her protectorate over the more than six million square miles of adjacent territory; give up Natal and Cape Colony; abandon her Cape to Cairo Railroad of 7,000 miles, more than one-half of which is completed; give up the net work of railroads in South Africa; abandon all her public interests, her church, missionary and educational work; leave the natives to the rule of the Boer slave holders; surrender the African part of her world's sub-marine cable system; give up all to the tyrannical, autocratic, stiff-necked Kruger; to the disgrace and dishonor of her national reputation, standing and history?

OR MEET FORCE WITH FORCE?

Or should England, in her great duty to her own people and her responsibility to the civilized world, have done just as she has done, send an army to relieve her cities and citizens, sustain her local authority and maintain her national prestige by meeting force with force? To do so was quite within her power, as has been demonstrated.

You, and of your ilk, may take up and sound abroad the cry of sympathy for the "poor weak Boer," as if their weakness should cover the multitude of their offendings and as if a strong and powerful nation had no rights which a weak one was bound to respect, but Mr. Davis, there is a book—sometimes the guide of men—wherein is a sentiment regarding the perishing by the sword of he who takes it, and the consensus of opinion among jurists is that the sentiment is correct. It seems to be abundantly exemplified in the case under consideration.

BEST EVIDENCE.

The best evidence that England had no hostile intentions in the conventions and controversies concerning the demanded

reforms is shown by the fact that she was unprepared for war. The garrisons in all her extended frontiers, in that part of Africa, numbered less than 15,000 men, and these were scattered with no facilities nor plans for concentration. Yes, England was taken by surprise. She had to mobilize an army and call troops and generals of experience and skill from all parts of her possessions.

This condition of unpreparedness and lack of hostile intent is further shown in that notwithstanding the great involvement of national interests, and her sympathy for her suffering subjects on her own soil, it was four months before she was able to relieve any of her beleaguered cities and one hundred and thirty-five days before she made capture of Cronje's army, and then eighty days more before the relief of Mafeking.

THE BOER SQUEALS.

About the time of the capture of Cronje, "His Autocracy," President Kruger, began to come to his senses. He asked intervention through the United States consulate at Pretoria.

Then President McKinley, wisely regarding the provisions of The Hague convention in such cases made and provided, and gladly embracing the opportunity and request, tendered his friendly offices in the interest of peace between Great Britain and the South African Republics.

More than that, he, as the Chief Magistrate of a law-abiding nation, could not do. Less than that, he, as a "god-like"—to use your own sycophantic phrase—would not do.

THE INEVITABLE.

Mr. Davis, for the purposes of this discussion, the historical part might here "rest."

The world knows that England, though surprised, and, for that struggle unprepared, did put an army in the field, and that not only has she recovered her own territory, but that, on the 13th of March last, President Steyn—when General Roberts occupied Bloemfontein—found how foolish it was for him to be induced to go on a "sympathy strike." Kruger, who so promptly sent Boer troops across the line on the 14th of October, 1899, found necessity for more prompt personal

action, when, to save himself from St. Helena, he, on the 30th of May, 1900, hastily quit his capital, Pretoria.

It seems only to remain for him to become a voluntary exile, or to accept the inevitable and make terms. In modern warfare the bill of costs falls on the vanquished. In this case it will vastly exceed the amount paid by him to "walking delegates" like yourself.

KRUGER'S GOLD-BRICK DEAL.

It remains for you to explain to your fellow citizens why and how, you, while yet a civil officer in the service of the United States, could take diplomatic service with the Boers, could devote time to the promotion of their warlike, hostile, actions, could denounce a power with which your government was at peace, and could encourage American citizens whom you found in the Boer military service, to continue their hostile actions?

To many there seems but one solution of the problems, and that is, the payment and receipt of gold. However, the consensus of opinion of those who have given the matter of amount received any thought, is that whether much or little, it was a deal which partook largely of the "gold-brick" genus.

It pleased you to say, through an interview in the Post-Dispatch of July 21st, that there was only $3.75 in the Transvaal treasury, when you inspected (or went through) it. You say: "They had bar gold and silver to be sure, but it was valueless to them at the time as the government mints were not in operation, while it was impossible to get the precious metals on the market—mark me, I say right at that period." You also say: "The idea that Kruger is paying me to work up sentiment in this country is ridiculous. I will call anyone a liar who makes such a statement." Notwithstanding the severe impending penalty, there are many who indulge the "idea." And many also who are surprised that you left Kruger that $3.75, though on reflection, you didn't say you did. Still those valueless bars of gold and silver—quantity not stated—left them (if left) might have eased a sensitive conscience. There be rumors of a large deposit made in a Kansas City bank by a "peripatetic" soon after your return from Krugerland.

WHERE AM I AT?

Mr. Davis, Democrats and their affiliants may accept your services, but will they trust you? They know you as a self-confessed hireling who severed your relations with another party with a sordid balancing of accounts. They hear you announce yourself a traitor, justifying your treason by reference to services rendered, and a compensation received. They see you place yourself on the bargain-counter, they make inventory to wit, one fine personnel, one broad brow "wherein no sense reposes," one pair of bright, but sinister eyes, one moustach-covered mouth, out of which with unsurpassed eloquence, flow "words, words, words," declarations of excessive love of leiber-tay, sweet leiber-tay," and maudlin sycophantic personal adulations for anyone whom you wish to "work," all on sale. If they buy, it will be with the full conviction that their new acquisition will "flop" at will. They know that it is hard to break an old egg-sucking dog of his tricks. They know that once a "turn-coat," always a "turn-coat."

THE "PER CAPITER."

Commencing my political work as one of a Juvenile Tippecanoe Club in 1840, giving my support to the first Free Soil Platform, and holding an active worker's place among those who have upheld national principles and unity from Fremont to McKinley, I may truly be called a partisan. Yet, I am not one who believes that personal and political virtue dwells exclusively with the party of my affiliation—though I sincerely think that never to my knowledge was the "per capiter" of personal excellence, political honesty and regard for principle more unequally distributed among the parties than in this campaign.

Still, with all their lack, I am convinced that your new party associates will ever keep in mind the old maxim, "Never trust a traitor," for among them are many men of noble heart and level head.

England received Benedict Arnold into her service, but who gave him confidence or social recognition? Other British officers, though loyal to the crown and to its American policy, refused to sit with him at the mess table. Where now is his dishonored grave?

A VIPER.

Not content with your display of baseness and oratory in the Democratic Convention, when you endorsed their platform and candidate, you, in your new role and inspired by the spirit of despicable ingratitude, went to the Silver Republican Convention the next day, and leaving principles of political economy and platforms out of view, you signalized your inherent pusillanimity by an uncalled for personal assault upon the man who called you from want, penury and idleness, to an office far beyond your merit and ability (and I quote from the Kansas City Journal of July 7, 1900) "McKinley sent people to Cuba to rob the Cubans. His policy in Porto Rico has been an outrage. When the war with Spain was over the administration attempted to steal the islands from the Filipinos and, of course, they rebelled."

Herein is ignorance of facts and perversity of mind which, if compared to, or illustrated by the lowest of your new political associates would be, to them, an insult.

You doubtless have heard of the fabled case of the overkind man and the benumbed viper. The man warmed the reptile into the life and vigor, and was rewarded by a venomous sting.

CAME AS EXPECTED.

Ever since 1896, when in the Coates Opera House, while seeking to place yourself at the head of the Republican party and to secure the nomination for Governor of Missouri, you said, "the old soldier has had his day." . . . We young men propose to take charge of political affairs . . . I have not ceased to expect you to do the traitorous "mountebank" act which you executed on July 5th, 1900.

In that address you exhibited a vaulting ambition; a lack of political perspicuity, and a willingness and wish, to build your preferment upon the ruin of your most able and devoted political associates. My sixty years of political work and observation have taught me to expect such people to commit political suicide sooner or later.

It seems that excessive ambition, the ever-existing lack of political sagacity and your innate trend to harm your best friends and benefactors had chance for full play when Secretary Hitchcock took his portfolio in President McKinley's Cabinet.

WAR UP BRYAN'S SLEEVE.

If Bryan really has a war wth England, over the Boer involvement, "up his sleeve," eager to launch it when grasping the "scepter," it is well that the business, the commerce, the coast cities and all other interests, as well as the intelligence of the country should know it, and be consulted.

It seems rather strange that one of so limited military experience should be so warlike, so ready, and so relied on to go into the tyrant-stopping, hand-staying, ispe-dixiting business. Possibly the solution of the question may lie in that limited experience after all.

And here arises that two-year old query, as to whether the Spaniards surrendered because Bryan donned his Colonel's eagles, or whether he put on his regimentals because he foresaw that his command could never, by any possibility, see fighting Spaniards?

And how does the Dictator and his subservient party stand on the present Chinese involvement? Jointly they maintained silence July 4th and 5th, though then a matter of public news. Policy and demagoguery sealed their lips till they could see a possibility of placing themselves in the opposition to what the administration might do.

EXPERIENCE IN TYRANT-STOPPING.

Instructed by Congress and sustained by confidence and by appropriations made with a unanimity unexampled in the history of this commonwealth, McKinley went into the tyrant-stopping business in 1898, and though grandly successful we all know the cost in blood and treasure.

Such unanimity of sentiment and harmony of action could hardly be expected in the crusade and imperialistic scheme of your new and now "god like." And as to the subject upon whom he would now seem to like to operate, England, there would be a vast difference between that power and Spain in the matter of ability to resist.

Should Bryan be inaugurated March 4th next, and retain his now expressed hostility to England, and should Kruger maintain the semblance of armed resistence up to that time it would be easy and logical for he who would then "reign" to attempt tyrant-stopping.

With his fondness for the spectacular, with his utter lack of experience in practical statesmanship and diplomacy and depending upon his Attorney General—Atwood, possibly—for advice, he could easily so trespass upon the amenities of international intercourse as to precipitate hostilities.

If their words mean anything, Bryan and his supporters would inaugurate contentions about the Boer-British status—whatever that might then be. Not to do so would reverse all their platitudes.

Let the American voter carefully consider, and look well before he leaps.

BRITISH CABLE SYSTEM.

Your reference to the possibility for getting a matter of news over the "British cable" shows that you are cognizant of the fact that England controls the submarine cable system of the world, though Americans invented and organized it.

She has ten lines to this country with ramifications through British America and the West Indies. Three lines from London, via. Spain and Portugal, extend to Central and South America, down the east coast to Monte Video, across the continent to Valparaiso, up to Mexico, to Vera Cruz, Tampico and to Galveston, Texas. Four lines from London reach Gibralter, Malta, Egypt and via the Red Sea—Aden, in Arabia. Thence lines reach all Eastern and South Africa to Cape Town. Another line creeps up the west coast of Africa and across to Cadiz, Spain. From Aden lines extend to Bombay and all India, to Ceylon, Japan, China, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

Thus your much-hated England is the unrivalled controller of the Sub-Marine Empire of the World.

Loyal British subjects alone sit at the instruments and the head of the system is in London.

The government subsidized the lines and can take possession at any time. In case of war no hostile nation could send or receive information nor direct the movements of armies or navies, while England could do both. One of her war ships would be worth several of the enemy's vessels and a small fleet could be so directed as to devastate or lay under tribute all coast cities and commerce.

Were Great Britain inspired by the malevolence which

marks your diatribes against her she would do much harm in the world.

These facts are placed "on the outer wall" as hints to Presidents who contemplate going into the "ipse dixit" business, and to Vice-Presidential aspirants generally.

THAT SECRET ALLIANCE.

In the matter of a secret alliance with Great Britain you have certainly played the people false. First, you declared in soothing and honeyed words, that it did not exist. Then you broke into the peace and quiet which your words had inspired with the cry of alarm and the statement that it was a live danger—threatening reality. Mr. Davis, which statement is false?

It is a consolation to rest assured that notwithstanding your alarms, the United States has a perpetual charter to do business as a paramount nation, that her credit is above par, that she will never exhaust her resources, will never be compelled to go into liquidation nor be placed in the hands of a receiver. Expansion is one of Uncle Sam's fads and he has never made an unprofitable real estate deal; though in the occupancy of his new holdings, from the Louisiana Purchase to the Philippines, he has had to do the imperialistic act and overcome native insubordination and rebellion, by force of arms.

OUR INSPIRATION.

Not alone the value of land nor the increase of military glory and international prestige should be our inspiration. But to acquit ourselves as faithful stewards of the political treasure committed to us. Raised up as the beneficiaries of God—ruler of nations—instructed and experienced—we have a duty to perform as benefactors. When Christ had instructed and inspired His disciples he did not say, "Now stand aloof, now isolate yourselves." No; he said, "Go! go! go!"

In this era of the world's history, so pregnant with uncertainties and possibilities, we stand as did St. Paul when a "great door and effectual" was opened to him—like him "there are many adversaries."

The Orient is our open door; Dewey handled the key; Merritt helped him throw the door wide open; we have entered and all Bryanism can't shut it.

FIVE HISTORIC SCENES.

Mr. Davis, let us now look upon scenes portraying Tragedy, Comedy and Farce.

SCENE I.—Dewey in Manila Bay, destroys Spanish fleet.

SCENE II.—Dewey and Merritt defeat Spanish land forces and occupy Manila.

SCENE III.—Aguinaldo's mob army attacks American soldiers.

SCENE IV.—Americans haul down "Old Glory" and take to their heels for safety.

SCENE V.—American soldiers embark for home, whipped out for the first time in history.

Don't the last two scenes "jar you?" But that is just what you Bryanites demand—just what Spellbinders, Senators, and Candidates wish to effect—just what they treasonably have aided Aguinaldo to do, and just what Mr. Jones, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, says Bryan will do if he is inaugurated President.

IMPERIALISM AND DESPOTISM.

Your adopted platform asserts, "imperialism abroad will lead quickly and inevitably to despotism at home."

Imperialism, as defined by your party, is expansion. There have been many Americans who sustained that policy and among them was one Wm. J. Bryan. His influence was a potent factor in securing the ratification of the treaty of Paris. That treaty gave the United States title to islands of the Antilles and in the Orient. Thus Bryan is an Imperialist and your platform condemns all such. Don't you think that there is an identifiable stultification or two in the air?

Imperialism, in the abstract and in practice, is the infringement by officer or clique upon the rights and liberties of the people, or, the absolute taking away of the same. It

may develop in a manifest change in organic form of government; or, it may exist by, and in, the perversion of even the forms and processes of a Republic. To illustrate, like Goebelism in Kentucky, Tillmanism in South Carolina, or the police system, as applied to St. Louis and Kansas City, in Missouri.

There is imperialism! There is "despotism at home!" From whence does it come? From McKinley? From Republican persons or principles? No, Mr. Davis, from Democrats, who sat in the convention and "howled" when you apostrophized "leiber-tay." Whence will come relief? From Republicans in Kentucky and that by the exercise of their constitutional right at the ballot box or by the god-given right of revolution. From republicans in Missouri at the ballot box. Poor old South Carolina, she is hopelessly in the imperialistic, despotic grasp of Tillman who weeps over the fate of colored Filipinos, but murders and disfranchises his fellow-citizens of color at home.

"And of such is the Kingdom of"—Bryan.

MILITARISM.

The United States has had her Revolutionary army, her army of 1812, her army in Mexico, her army in the various Indian wars, her Federal Union army, her army in Cuba, her army in the Philippines and in China, more in the aggregate than 3,250,000 men. Mr. Davis, when in the history of all those armies—as wholes or as individual soldiers—did any one do—or attempt to do—an act which tended to establish an empire or to abridge the liberties of the people? When attempt to establish militarism?

There is a remnant of the patriots who saved the Republic from disruption, the only organization on earth which exists solely to teach and exemplify patriotism, the G. A. R. Is it a menace to any political right or to the liberties of the people?

Then there are the returned soldiers from Cuba and the Philippines. Are you or your party afraid that they are transforming the Republic into an Empire, that they will "despotism" you?

Of the American soldiery eleven have occupied the Presidential chair. A million or more have suffered wounds or death in the line of duty, not for the empire, but for the Republic.

LoC.

In the matter of patriotic personality, and history, what a contrast between McKinley and Bryan, or Rosevelt and Stevenson!

THE DOLEFUL DEMOCRACY.

Lugubrious declarations and direful forecastings has been the habit of your party. When in national conclave in 1864, it had it, that the war was a failure and that "the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part." In 1868, after four years more of Republican rule, your party said of our party, "under its repeated assaults the pillars of the Government are rocking on their base and should it succeed in November next and inaugurate its President, we will meet as a subjugated and conquered people amid the ruins of liberty and the scattered fragments of the Constitution." The Republicans succeeded, the amendment conferring the franchise upon colored citizens was adopted, the pillars of the Government assumed erectness and firmness, the ruins of liberty disappeared, the fragments of the Constitution were reunited and the ark of the covenant remained unpolluted. True to their pledge of subjugation and surrender your party in 1872 said, "we pledge ourselves to maintain the union of these states, emancipation and enfranchisement."

So when McKinley and Roosevelt are elected this time, and Roosevelt and Dolliver in 1904, and Republicans save the Republic from Democracy, maintain the finances, the liberties, the honor and credit of the nation; exalt and sustain the flag and assure security abroad, mayhap your party may become patriotic enough to say, "Amen, so mote it be."

A HIRELING HUMBUG!

Mr. Davis, you have joined your destiny to and united in the work of representatives from ten or eleven states where "despotism at home" has been so absolutely established that hundreds of thousands of constitutional electors are disfranchised. The votes of those states are thereby assured for Bryan—just as well save the expense of an election. And those votes will compete in the Electoral College with honest, intelligent, actual American votes. All this is as well known to you as to any other American citizen, and yet you will go up and down the country in the employ of those very wrong-

doers and sing your song of "Leiber-tay, sweet leiber-tay! sweetest word that ever blossomed on the lips of man!"

To forward their work of despotism you even desecrate the soul-inspiring sentiments of united patriotism and Christianity, as embodied in the song which the Union soldier sang on the march, in camp and on the field of battle:

"In the beauty of the lillies, Christ was born across the sea,
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free."

Those soldiers were making sacrifice and hazarding life for the ideals of patriots, statesmen and humanitarians "which have come thundering to us down the colonades of time." Their work was in the line of moral redemption. They were accelerating the era of prophecy—glorious universal peace. By them, the use of that song was not sacrilege nor blasphemy.

But when you, though ever so eloquently, quote it in the interest of the murdering, disfranchising, despotic, imperialistic democracy, what can it be called but sacrilege?

Thus you steal the livery of heaven to serve the devil in.

OH! MINE GELT! MINE GELT! MINE GELT!

To Oom Paul Kruger, who paid you so well for anticipated services of great political and military value, it must have come as a cruel irony when, instead of what he stipulated for, there came to him a "special messenger" bearing assurances—and that in the form of their signatures—in their own hand writing, that thirty thousand school children in the United States, on an exparte statement, and by your eloquence, had been so moved that they, in that act, assured him and the Boer cause of their sympathy.

Oom Paul also must have felt greatly relieved when he read such words of wisdom and assurance as were uttered by you in your address in the Orpheum in this city, May 14th last, when you said, "Oom Paul Kruger shall not go to St. Helena! Or, if he does, he shall march on a pavement of British skulls" from Pretoria to Cape Town." You see, he knows that the distance is only 1040 miles.

DAVIS HURTS ENGLAND.

Still it appears that your services have not been entirely without direful results to England as will be seen by the fol-

lowing extract from a private chronological record of current important events—kept in K. C., U. S. A., to-wit:

"Wireless Telegraph a Great Success.

"Latest from South Africa.

"Mortality among Missouri Mules.

"Cape Town, June 15, 1900.—The last consignment of mules from the United States arrived in good condition, all things considered. The animals were immediately placed upon the veldt to recuperate, under the care of Missouri cowboys, who have had charge since shipped from K. C. There was abundance of grass and water and the herd was doing well. But day before yesterday one of the herders received a K. C. Star of May 15th, wherein was a report of Webster Davis, Ex. Etc., Etc., pro-Boer speech at the Orpheum, the day before. This speech he read aloud to other herders and as they were great friends of Davis, they loudly cheered his words and he was requested to read again. But those American cheers had a familiar sound to those American mules and caused them also to gather around the men. But, alas, for the differentation in fate of men and mules. The men were soon to return to Missouri, the mules never. So, when the reader voiced the orator's eulogy upon "Missou-ray grand old Missou-ray," and spoke of the beautiful scenes of hill and valley, with the grand forests and green grass, the bright skies and gurgling rills, the sound of the anvil and the song of the plowman—the mule had been there, had got bright new shoes at the shop and had plowed with the plowman—the men all cheered, but the mules joined in one loud, long, lamenting bray. But joy of man and grief of mule reached the full measure of exuberance and of sadness when the reader came to the extacies of the inimitable Webster when he apostrophized "lieber-tay, sweet lieber-tay, sweetest word that aver blossomed on the lips av man; leiber-tay, sweet leiber-tay which throbs in the hearts av the wild beasts av the forest." Then the cowboys cheered and cheered and cheered again, but the mules in chorus gave one long, heart-breaking, wailing, shrieking bray, "doubled up" and died; died of "nostalgia," home-sick even unto death."

"Later.—Contracts will soon be let to secure materials for constructing the "Paseo Davis" extending from Pretoria to Cape Town upon which Oom Paul Kruger will march on his way to St. Helena. Only fifty million British skulls will be required."

MORE WORK FOR BUSY WORKERS.

Mr. Davis, though you are a very busy man, having the duty and work of directing home and foreign interests already assumed, and "Atlas like" are carrying the world on your shoulders, you still might take on another straw, in the form of intervention in Chinese affairs. Those poor "boxers" who are struggling against attempts to introduce a religion which is not to their liking and are surely in danger of being "governed without their consent," certainly are subjects for sympathy. Could not Davis, Atwood, Bryan and Co. champion their cause?

Regardless, however, of that Chinese matter, I remain ready to sustain my positions in the Boer-British conflict, and for further discussion, public or otherwise.

I am yours to command,

W. F. CLOUD,

Kansas City, U. S. A., July 22d, 1900.

W. F. CLOUD,

Colonel Second Kansas Cavalry, 1862-5.

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